My first time in Miróbriga Ruins was to make a presentation related to the use of technologies

among archaeological sites. Me and my colleague Alexandino Gonçalves were kindly invited by the archaeologist José Carlos Quaresma, in 2017.

Back then, I felt in love with the cultural and nature richness of this archaeological site. So I came back, over and over again.

Classified as a Site of Public Interest in 1940, the archaeological site at Miróbriga has seen under the Portuguese Architectural Heritage Institute since 1982.

Considered by some investigators as a sanctuary and by others as a provincial urban centre, Miróbriga was inhabited from, at least, the Iron Age to the fourth century AD.

It is believed that this land rich in agricultural, maritime, and mining resources, had great commercial importance.

Miróbriga probably acquired the rank of municipality during the Flavian dinasty (1 st century AD).

From the 1st to the 3rd century A.D. the city shows an enormous vitality and intense occupation, which tends to decline in the second half of the 4th century A.D.

Prior to Roman occupation and Iron Age settlement was found in the highest zone of Miróbriga by people of possible Celtic origin.

The full extension of this site is not yet known. However, it presents some remarkable features, such as the \*forum\*, the residential and commercial zones, the bath complex, the bridge, the stone paved streets, and most of all, its circus, where \*bigae\* and \*quadrigae\* races took place drawn by Lusitanian horses, famous throughout the Roman world.

The houses have not yet been studied in depth. Some of them were decorated with frescoes and can be seen along the causeways that crisscross the urban mass, as the example shown in the following figure.

## The Forum

At the highest level of the urban area, a \*forum\* was built over the previous occupation.

This public square was the centre round which the buildings constituting the political, administrative, economic, and religious centre of the town took their place.

Occupying an important position in the \*forum\* is a centralized temple dedicated to Venus.

To the south, was the commercial area with various shops, \*tabernae\*. These were usually small rooms that opened directly onto the street.

In some cases, they had a partial upper story, \*mezzanine\*, where the shop owner lived, steps led from the street to the main square.

## The spa, one of the best preserved in Portugal

The Miróbriga spa has two buildings and they contain the usual compartments for this type of construction: entrance with room for clothes and games, the \*frigidariu\* or cold bath, the \*caldarium\*, and the \*tepidarium\*, the heated area.

Under the heated rooms was a hypocaust - an under flood structure of brick pillars and arches where hot air from a furnace circulated - most of the rooms have double walls for hot air circulation, as you can see in the figure below.

<img src="/img/mirobriga/sauna.jpg" alt="Sauna, Miróbriga" width="400"/>

Quite close to the spa is a single arch bridge which probably linked the town to the hippodrome on the outskirts. The Miróbriga hippodrome (the venue for equestrian events) is the only example known to date in Portugal.

## Ending Notes About Miróbriga

![overview, Miróbriga](/img/mirobriga/questionarios.jpg)

A total of xx visitors from Miróbriga kindly participated in my study and contributed for a better understanding related to acceptance and intention to use augmented reality in archaeological sites.

## Historical Review

This article was reviewed by «designation + name + short bio».